9: Yamasaki--225 N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
134, 164

The tributaries of the Taito-kei flow through this territory [MC: the terraced tableland in the south] like a network. The soil is very fertile; but the town of Taichū (Taiwan-fu) situated here is notorious for malaria.

9: Yamasaki--225 N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
134, 361

The large plain of Taiwan forms the western part of the island. The alluvial soil is fertile and there are many towns and villages in all quarters of the plain.

20: Alvarez--249 (no date) 1927 Formosans
116, 134

"The soil of the island is most fertile. Rice can be cultivated everywhere, tea in the northern section, sugar-cane especially in the centre and the south, and in the mountains, grows the famous camphor-tree, which yields valuable profit. As far as this natural product is concerned, Formosa is considered to be the richest emporium in existence."

III. COASTLINE AND MARINE FLOOR

133 The long coastline of the main island has very few indentations. The east coast is precipitious, with a fault shoreline connecting Hualien and Suao. For all practical purposes, it has no natural harbor except Suao Bay on the northern coast. The west coast is marked by wide tidal flats and is generally swampy. The sea is so shallow that sea-going vessels have to keep almost out of sight of land and can find ingress only at a few river mouths. These approaches, however, are often choked with sand bars. Kaohsiung, the southern port, is situated in a long lagoon called Kaohsiung Bay. The northern coast is winding, with many inlets. Keelung Harbor is a deep indentation there.

The main island sits on the southeastern part of the China Continental Shelf. Formosa Strait is shallow; the depth is generally under 300 feet and not exceeding 700 feet at the deepest point. However, the sea deepens abruptly along the east coast; it drops to a depth of 13,000 feet only 31 miles offshore.

IV. SOILS

•134 Three distinct types of soil are found in the mountainous area, and two types of alluvial soils exist in the plains.

134 In areas above 9,800 feet elevation podsols (generally associated with coniferous forest cover) and slightly podsolized alpine soils are found. Grey-brown and yellow podsolic soils are found on the mountain slopes between 6,500 and 8,500 feet. In the foothill areas less than 6,000 feet above sea level, lateritic soils -- yellow, light red, and deep red, depending upon the altitude at which they are found -- constitute a major part of the soil.

Alluvial soils, important for agricultural use, cover an area of about 3,300 square miles, or 24 per cent of the island's surface, and are found principally in the southwestern part of the island. Small tracts of alluvial parent materials are widely scattered throughout lowland Formosa. In the middle and northern plains are generally acid alluvial soils; alkaline alluvial soils spread over the southern plains, Taitung Trench, and Yilan Plain.

V. VEGETATION

137 Most of the mountains are heavily forested. About 68 per cent of the main island is covered with three dominant plant formations -- broad-leaved evergreen forests, mixed forests of broad-leaved deciduous trees and conifers, and coniferous forests. Two minor types of vegetation are seen on the foothills,

45:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AD1 Formosa
~~AD1~~ AD1

Annex "A," Subparagraph 3a',
Economic Background

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF ECONOMY

11 Two-thirds of Formosa is mountainous and one-third is lowland. The mountains are rugged and covered with dense forests, but most of the lowland is well suited to the production of commercial crops. Though the Tropic of Cancer passes through the island, its climate is mild, with moderate temperatures and abundant rainfall. Two major crops a year are usual and a third crop of vegetables often increases the total yield. The soils are generally fertile, but frequent inundation and heavy year-round cropping cause excessive leaching. To maintain fertility, large quantities of fertilizer become a necessity.[1]

135 Mineral resources do not appear to be abundant. However, since much of the mountainous regions has not been thoroughly

1. The application of fertilizer to riceland in Formosa averages 50 pounds per acre per crop. Chiao-min Hsieh and Alice Taylor, "Formosa" Focus, N. Y., April 1955, p. 5.